

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of this amendment, the application included claims 1-37. An Office Action mailed April 11, 2005, rejected claims 1, 6-19 and 28-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,363,373 to Steinkraus ("Steinkraus") in view of US Patent No. 6,539,348 to Bond et al. ("Bond"). Claims 2-5 and 20-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinkraus in view of Bond and further in view of US Patent No. 6,772,150 to Whitman et al. ("Whitman"). Claims 35-37 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the office action noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

This amendment amends claims 1, 21 and 28. Claims 35-37 have been canceled. Hence, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-34 stand pending for examination.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 21 and 28 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 35, 36 and 37, respectively. Accordingly, claims 35-37 have been canceled. In addition, claims 1, 21 and 28 have been amended to recite that "the second set of units comprises a plurality of units," in order to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitations incorporated from claims 35, 36 and 37, respectively.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejections of claims 1-34 are respectfully traversed. In the interest of expediting prosecution, however, independent claims 1, 21 and 28 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 35, 36 and 37, respectively. It is believed, therefore, that claims 1, 21, 28 are now in condition for allowance. The remaining claims, each of which depend (either directly or indirectly) from allowable claims 1, 21 or 28, are allowable as depending from allowable base claims and as being directed to specific novel substitutes. Hence,

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the applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable over the cited references and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under § 103.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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